Wednesday, December 14, 2011 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 6 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert:



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

POLITICAL CAUCUS President Aquino (center) sits down with his political allies and some of the 188 congressmen who voted to impeach Chief Justice Renato Corona for lunch at Edsa Shangri-La hotel in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday. Among those who attended the caucus are (counterclockwise) House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Rep. Henry Cojuangco, Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya, Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, Rep. Antonio Alvarez, Rep. Neptali Gonzales II and Rep. Niel Tupas Jr.

SC: Corona will face trial

Chief Justice won't resign, says Midas

By Jerome Aning

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona is willing to undergo an impeachment trial and will refute the charges against him "point by point," the spokesperson of the Supreme Court said yesterday.

Speaking at a gathering of the Manila Regional Trial Court Judges Association, Jose Midas Marquez, the concurrent court administrator, said the high court would not be "pressured" by President Aquino's continuing attacks against it.

"Whoever is putting all these words and thoughts in our [President's head] is doing a great disservice to the country and the Filipino people," Marquez said. He said that with the impeachment complaint having been transmitted to the Senate, "let's all stop this now, let's wait for the Chief Justice to respond."

Marquez said Corona "respects the constitutional process of impeachment" and "will face all these complaints at the appropriate time."

To the question of whether Corona would consider resigning instead, Marquez said: "I think that is also one of the objectives of this political maneuvering—to have the Chief Justice resign. But he will face

SC/CORONA/A11



CHIEF JUSTICE CORONA Ready to answer all complaints at appropriate time

Abalos detained, seeks house arrest

By Jeannette I. Andrade

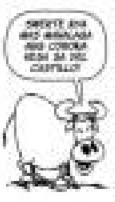
IN A DRAMATIC twist of fate, former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Abalos was detained yesterday in a police station in Parañaque City, accused of rigging the 2007 polls to favor the senatorial candidates of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 77-year-old Abalos, who is a former judge as well as a former mayor, was photographed and fingerprinted by police after he was placed under arrest on two counts of electoral sabotage.

Arroyo is facing the same charges and is detained at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Judge Jesus Mupas of Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 112 ordered the arrest of Abalos after finding probable

ABALOS/A20



Corona loss may be Del Castillo's gain

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHAT is bad luck to Chief Justice Renato Corona can be good fortune for Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas yesterday said he would move to drop the impeachment case for plagiarism against Del Castillo because Congress could not possibly handle two

CORONA/A18

Senator-judges in robes to take their oath today

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SENATE will convene itself as an impeachment court and its members, wearing robes custom-made for the purpose, will take their oath as senator-judges when the session is adjourned this afternoon.

Lawyer Valentina Cruz, the newly designated spokesperson of the impeachment court, said this was agreed upon by the senators in a caucus late yesterday.

She said that after the oath-taking, Chief Justice Renato Corona would be summoned and directed to reply to the articles of impeachment submitted by the House of Representatives.

The chair of the House

SENATOR-JUDGES/A8

Inside story: P-Noy feared another TRO fiasco

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE STUNNING move against Chief Justice Renato Corona has all the hallmarks of the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, that opened the Pacific chapter of World War II.

President Aquino himself gave the impeachment order in a Japanese restaurant at the Greenhills shopping center in San Juan City in a 10-minute meeting on Sunday with House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, according to an Inquirer source.

Mr. Aquino, who was having lunch in the restaurant's second floor, went down to talk to Belmonte and Gonzales to put the finishing touches on the battle plan to oust Corona that had been in the works since the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on Nov. 15 against travel restrictions on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

INSIDE/A20

President thanks allies for action on Chief Justice

By Christine O. Avendaño

NOW IT can be told.

President Aquino yesterday said that he had initially restrained allies in the House of Representatives from moving against Chief Justice Renato Corona, but he supported efforts to impeach Corona when questionable decisions of the high court became too much for the people.

Mr. Aquino said the Supreme Court's haste in issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO) junking the travel ban on former President and now Pam-

PRESIDENT/A20

Miriam wins seat in int'l court

By Tina G. Santos and Cathy Yamsuan

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago is the newest judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the first Filipino and first Asian from a developing country to sit in the tribunal that tries cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced yesterday.

The DFA, citing a report from the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, said Santiago was "overwhelmingly elected" in elections held by the Assembly of States Parties on Dec. 12 in New York.

After waging a four-month campaign, Santiago topped the first round of polling, making it to the court with 79 votes out of

MIRIAM/A11

Second FrontPage

GMA camp wants warrant voided

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE CAMP of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants the Pasay City Regional Trial Court to withdraw the warrant of arrest it had issued against her.

Shorter visiting hours

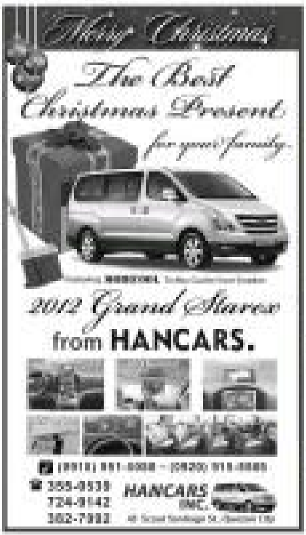
Cops ready for order

Rest with family

She should be punished—Erap

Serge Osmeña tightens noose on ex-DBP chief

Secretary says she's no dummy







Clark execs got P6.3M in excess perks, says COA

By Leila B. Salaverria

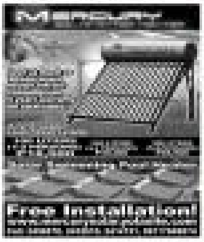
PH goes to bat for vets denied benefits by US

By Tina G. Santos

Big PAL fare sale

Mancao lawyer slams inaction on Dacer case

[illegible]













AL-BARKA MASSACRE AFTERMATH

Court-martial for 4 Army officers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

[illegible]



DMMHS reunion

[illegible]

THE DAILY GOSPEL

[illegible]

Showing tonight: Meteor shower

TJ Burgonio

SHOWING tonight: The Geminids meteor shower.

A spectacular show of colorful shooting stars—at a rate of 40 an hour—will be visible in the night sky starting at around 9:30 p.m. till early Thursday morning, an astronomer said yesterday.

"The small ones will whiz by in split seconds, the big ones in over a second. They're like fireballs and come in different colors. That makes it spectacular," said Dario dela Cruz, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's space sciences and astronomy section.

The meteor shower, visible to the naked eye, can be observed initially in the eastern sky, then overhead, and in the western sky, he said.

And unlike previous meteor showers, stargazers will have a clearer view tonight. Weatherman forecast clear night skies, except for some cloudiness in the northern section.

At their peak, the meteors will rain down at a rate of 40 per hour in a dark and cloudless sky. A gibbous moon, however, could make it difficult for spectators to observe the small ones, according to Dela Cruz.

The phenomenon is referred to as the Geminids because they appear to radiate from the constellation Gemini, the Twins.

Meteor showers are the by-stream of debris shed by comets as they orbit the sun. When the Earth travels through this stream, meteors appear to fall from a particular point in the sky.

Meanwhile, the country will experience its longest night on Dec. 22, according to Pagasa.

Across the NATION

Street protests seen vs coal plant

Groups slam Davao dads' override of Mayor Duterte's veto of zoning law

DAVAO CITY—The city council voted to override Mayor Sara Duterte's veto of an ordinance that would pave the way for the construction of a coal-fired power plant here, bringing the battle against the controversial project to the streets.

Negros consumers to bear brunt of coal-fired power

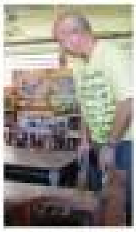
11-year-old's cry for help gets answers in Davao City

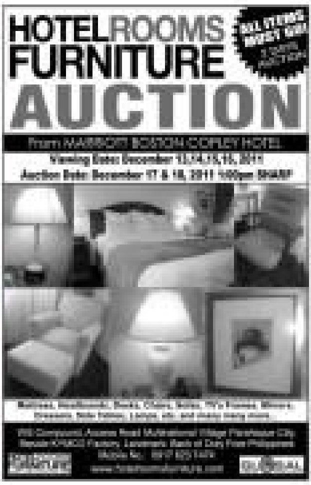


Zambo mines 'disguised' as small-scale



Tagum's chairs program proving skeptics wrong





Philippine Airlines

Asia's first, shining through 70

For the 12 days of Christmas, your PAL will dazzle you with amazing rates...

Fare	Destination
USD 30	Hong Kong, Macau, Taipei
USD 48	Singapore, Ho Chi Minh, Bangkok, Jakarta
USD 50	Xiamen
USD 60	Shanghai
USD 80	Beijing
USD 228	Guam
USD 248	Manila-Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Osaka
USD 108	Delhi
USD 298	Sydney, Melbourne, Cebu-Tokyo
USD 308	Honolulu
USD 498	Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Vancouver
PHP 788 Economy / PHP 3988 Business	All Luzon & Visayas
PHP 1388 Economy / PHP 4988 Business	All Mindanao

and unforgettable deals!



12 Days. 12 Deals. 12 Reasons to keep going back to this page.

Check out www.philippineairlines.com for updates and complete promo details!

- Qualified to earn Mabuhay Miles
- Rebooking is allowed with a charge
- Limited seats
- Other travel conditions apply

Philippine Airlines Mabuhay MILES

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Bats in Subic endangered by humans



By Robert Gonzaga
Subic Bay Freeport

ONCE a trademark of the Subic tourism experience, fruit bats (also called flying foxes) in the forests of the Subic Bay Freeport have started to dwindle due to human activity.

The Subic forest serves as habitat of various endemic wildlife species, among them the fruit bats

Population survey

Awareness program





BFAR warns of new Taal Lake fishkill

Cotabato's mud crabs get limelight in feast



HOMETOWN Inquirer

Villages in Laguna go gaga over CCTVs


RKS IS NOW IN YOUR HANDS!
RTSUN
LAN 549!
PLAN 200
Unlimited texts to Sun
4 hours of calls to Sun
unlimited
subscribers
POSTPAID
CHRISTMAS
sun
CELLULAR

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

King of the hill

EDITORIAL

IF SEN. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would have his way, any talk of human rights violations in the country should always and only be seen through the prism of [illegible]

[illegible]



Where did P391-M PCSO fund go?

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Crowning glory

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Impeachment juggernaut unleashed on Corona

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Illinois, PH

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Never a dull moment

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Siamese twins

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Barrier to reforms

LETTERS

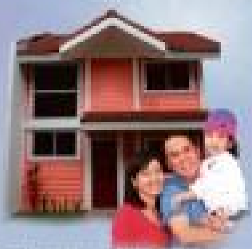
Getting back at P-Noy



PRESIDENT Aquino shakes the hand of Chief Justice Corona while exchanging pleasantries with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile during the Justice Summit last Dec. 5.

Jinggoy shouldn't speak ill of Arroyo

A Year of Dynamism for the Pag-IBIG Fund









Senator-judges to take oath today



Complete list of congressmen who signed the articles of impeachment

Resignation expected

Up to senators

Consultants

List of congressmen who did not sign

Corona loss may be Del Castillo's gain



DEL CASTILLO

Joker says P-Noy 'becoming an autocrat like Marcos'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Cathy Yamsuan

TWO CATHOLIC bishops yesterday expressed concern over the Monday impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona. [illegible]

Lucky

[illegible]

Biased

[illegible]

SC: Corona will face trial, won't resign

[illegible]





PROTESTERS display placards demanding the impeachment of embattled Chief Justice Renato Corona (left photo) during a rally outside the court in Manila on Tuesday. The House of Representatives transmitted to the Senate documents impeaching Corona over alleged corruption and favoritism toward former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Blistering

[illegible]

To malign and destroy

[illegible]

Hitler invoked

[illegible]

Corona least trusted among top national officials, says latest poll

[illegible]

Trust and distrust ratings of top national officials (November 2011, in percent)

	Trust	Distrust
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Approval ratings of top officials (August and November 2011, in percent)

	Nov	Aug
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

President thanks allies for action on Chief Justice

Disciple of Arroyo

Deepest gratitude

Restraint

Last straw

Leaching

Pilgrimage to Saudi

Strong people's support

Tool for accountability

Tyranny of judiciary

Inside story: P-Noy feared another TRO fiasco

TRO fiasco

Brains behind ouster

Short circuit

Solon quits

Abalos detained, seeks house arrest

Police detention

Bribery raps

House arrest

'Highly politicized'

Friday hearing

72-8 vote

Merit champ Juvic out to upstage stars

SPORTS

Lady Bulldogs WBL collegiate champs

B-Meg, TNT gun for semis

Need a win today to advance



Ace rookies give San Mig extra punch in ABL caging

By Jasmine W. Payo

Surging Road Warriors gain piece of lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

NEWS

Miriam wins seat in International Criminal Court

Influential states

Tremendous responsibility

IN THE KNOW

Former stars' sons shine in Batang Pinoy



PH Am tees off Jan. 5; Wang leads tough field

Pinoy Pride 11: Melindo battles Mexican Esquer

La Salle still favored despite absent star

Cristales, Concepcion top 'couples' golf



SPORTSWATCH

PCC hosts 5-cock derby

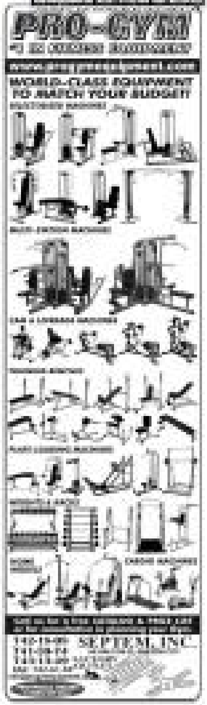
Perpetual Help tests St. Benilde spikers

Clippers nix Paul trade, pick up Billups instead



Chelsea hands City first defeat

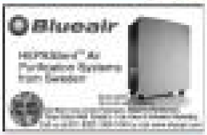


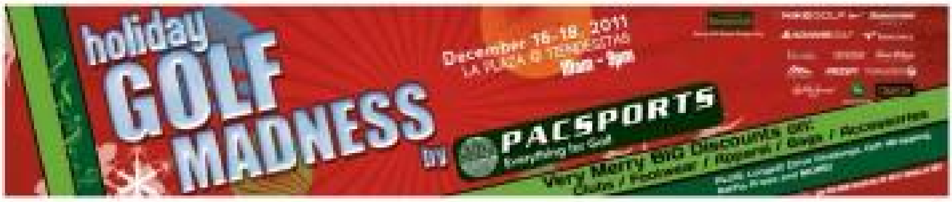





V
VICEROY
McKINLEY HILL
THE BEST ADDRESS FOR TODAY'S ACHIEVERS, WINNERS AND LEADERS.
Enjoy vital, vibrant living near Forbes Park.
MEGAWORLD
Tels: 840-0602 • 815-1888

Aplus METRO





BAUTISTA MURDER CASE

Raps filed vs Ramgen sister, husband

THE GIRLFRIEND of Ramgen Bautista yesterday formally filed murder and attempted murder charges against the victim's sister and her husband before the Parañaque City Prosecutor's Office.



LANTERN SHOPPING
With just a few days to go before Dec. 25, a man shops for a Christmas lantern on Gilmore Street in San Juan City.

PUP president to appeal CA decision

Politics eyed in slay try on party-list solon

DPWH suspends work on projects until Jan. 2



CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE
A boy finds himself in the middle of several statues of the Virgin Mary on display during a rally held by a religious group at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park.

Ateneo files graft raps vs QC council over SM condo



DO-IT-YOURSELF

Police ordered to go after teen gangs in Metro Manila

NPD orders investigation of 2 policemen from HQ

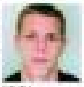
Mandaluyong's poor folks get Yule gifts from City Hall



Raps ...

MetroBriefs

Reward offered for missing Swiss national



REICH

5 arrested in drug raid in Tondo

Prosecutors firm on findings clearing mayor

Editor Lourdes B. Gusao

The WORLD

'Occupy' protesters paralyze US ports

OAKLAND—More than 1,000 Occupy Wall Street protesters blocked cargo trucks at busy West Coast ports, forcing some shipping terminals in Oakland, California, Portland, Oregon, and Washington state to halt operations.

Scientists find 'Elvis' monkey, psychedelic gecko in SE Asia





A PSYCHEDELIC gecko (left) and a monkey (right) with an "Elvis" hairdo are among 208 new species found in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia.

WorldBriefs

Canada pulls out of Kyoto Protocol

Suu Kyi's political party wins legal status

Obama demands Iran return downed US drone

Syrians vote as death toll climbs past 5,000

NJ Nets owner to run vs Putin for presidency



Kahit iba ang Pasko ko
Globe gets me
We all have our own
versions of Christmas.
From the ways we decorate,
to the reasons we celebrate.
Lahat, iba iba.
And Globe gets this.
We understand what makes you different,
and know that you are unique.
That's why we give you
choices to let you be yourself.
We let you do it your way.
ENJOY YOUR GLOBE
Your way
Globe

BUSINESS

6th straight month of decline for exports

Electronics rose 4.6% month-on-month in Oct.

PHILIPPINE exports in October fell 14.6 percent to $4.09 billion from $4.79 billion a year ago, a sixth straight fall that added to concerns that economic growth may miss the government's target for 2011.

[illegible]

Clark agency reviews deal with Megaworld

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]

PPP finally gets rolling with P1.96-B road project

By Doris C. Dumlao and Paolo G. Montecillo

[illegible]

INDICATORS

Stocks end slightly higher

[illegible]

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

43.880



STOCK MARKET

▲ 6.28



Off to BGC, finally

Biz Buzz

By the staff

[illegible]

The "Carrot" approach

[illegible]

[illegible]

Smoke and mirrors

[illegible]

A Million, and One Way to Grow



If you have a million pesos, what would you do with it? Buy the latest gadgets, book a cruise for the family, use it as downpayment for a brand new car…these are some of the normal initial response. But, for financially-savvy individuals, other options come to mind, foremost of which is investments. By exploring and choosing the right investment product, they end up growing their money, and having bigger funds to spend.

To learn more about aXcess and other AXA Philippines products, visit their website www.axa.com.ph, or call the AXA hotline +632 5815 AXA (292) or +632 3231 AXA (292).

Making the Smart Choice

A Guaranteed Slice of the Pie

BSP sees unprecedented rise in bank lending

PH, Ja

NSO: Factory-gate prices slightly up in October

Clark agency reviews deal with Megaworld

House passes measu



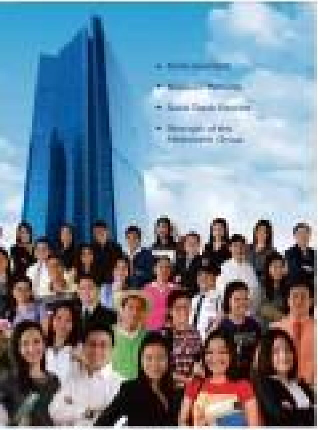
...pan postpone talks on trade deal review

...ns for local farm products stressed

Greed is good ...



...re creating ICT department



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SHIPPING SERVICES IN REGION IV

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT 61-SEATER AIR-CONDITIONED BUS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

ROLEX

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that:



SHIRLEY M. PADILLA

(With Pending Criminal Case filed before the office of the City Prosecutor of Manila under I.S.N. XV-07-INV 11K-09482

is no longer connected with our company.

Any transactions made/entered into between **Shirley M. Padilla** and any other party after this date are no longer valid and shall not be honored by the Company.

THE MANAGEMENT
FOSCON SHIPMANAGEMENT INC.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS AD RATES

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL ANY OF OUR INQUIRER CLASSIFIED ADS BRANCHES:

Department of Agriculture
PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND OTHER VETERINARY SUPPLIES

[illegible]

Department of Agriculture
PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER

INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

Department of Agriculture

SECOND INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

Calamba Water District

INVITATION TO BID FOR

Supply and Delivery of Security Services (21 Personnel)

[illegible]

QUEZON I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

SECOND INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

[illegible]

AmCham's CSR Excellence Awards: A thanksgiving celebration of selfless missions

THE 2011 WINNERS OF THE Third American Chamber CSR Excellence Awards were duly recognized during the 20th Annual Charity Thanksgiving Ball of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham). The event was held last Nov. 18, at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City. The affair was graced by His Excellency, the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Harry K. Thomas Jr., AmCham Foundation president Edwin Reid, AmCham president and Board Governor Mike Schinasi.

The American Chamber Foundation's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of the AmCham, it recognizes and honors member companies that have implemented highly worthy, notable and innovative CSR initiatives. These awards are given every two years based on a competitive criteria. From a total of 28 nominated entries from 18 participating AmCham member companies, five (5) were specially selected for their CSR contributions to the country.

- Improving Quality and Access to Education Category — Computer Eyes Program by IBM Philippines
- Delivering Equitable Healthcare Category — No Heart, No Life Program by Skin Enterprises Philippines
- Ensuring a Safe and Clean Environment Category — Environmental Leadership, Working towards a Greener and Safer Philippines by 3M Philippines
- Creating Sustainable Livelihood Category — Clarke for Timex, A Corporate Response towards Environmental Regeneration and Protection Project by Dole Stanfilco and Dole Development Foundation, Inc.
- Special Recognition under the Peace in Conflict-ridden Areas Category — Early Childhood Care and Development in Conflict-affected Communities by Johnson and Johnson Philippines, Inc.

The Panel of Judges for the 2011 CSR Excellence Awards was composed of Dr. Cristina Padolina, president of the Centro Escolar University; Sec. Elisea Gozun, presidential assistant on climate change; Paulo Jose, co-chair of the Philippine Coffee Board; Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, UP Professor of Medicine; and Mike Hunter, the managing director of Team Asia. They rightfully represented the various awards categories. Rosario "Chit" Ventura chaired the AmCham CSR Committee, with Josephine Gonzales and Deedee Alvarez as members with the support of AmCham Foundation executive director Jun Galdonez, Sandy Angeles, Sabrina and Bobbie Co Laguilles.

At the close of the 2011 CSR Excellence Awards ceremony, more CSR nominees are expected to participate two years from now. Congratulations to all winners and nominees.

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEM
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Our Dearly Beloved
Luciano "Chito" M. Santiago

[illegible]

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Charisse Zenarosa-Del Castillo

07 December 1975 – 11 December 2011

Peacefully joined Our Lord and her father Bernardo.

Her beloved husband Rolf, her most beloved children Flaire and Sabrina, ... [illegible] ... relatives, friends request prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Cathedral, ... [illegible] ...

— Rolf

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4)


HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.
Hyundai wishes you blessings this Christmas
as we continue our journey with you!
Happy Hyundai Holidays!

BUSINESS



BCDA expects to raise ₱45B from assets offering

Property in Fort Boni among biggest in list


CASANOVA

OFW remittances projected to grow by up to 8% in 2011





Philam Life announces second offering of "Growth Invest"

PH seen to remain more resilient than peers in Asia

Insurers seek deferment of capital hike implementation

Aussie firms acquire 70% of Bonita contract

Meralco buying ₱523M worth of Transco assets

Tanduay gets 'AAA' rating from Crisp

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Asia stocks hit by threat of Europe downgrades

Japan urges EU to be more convincing

Comments of ratings firms further sour mood

In China, hiring seen to taper off



Fed may hold off offering fresh stimulus

HTC sues Citi in Taiwan after shares dip

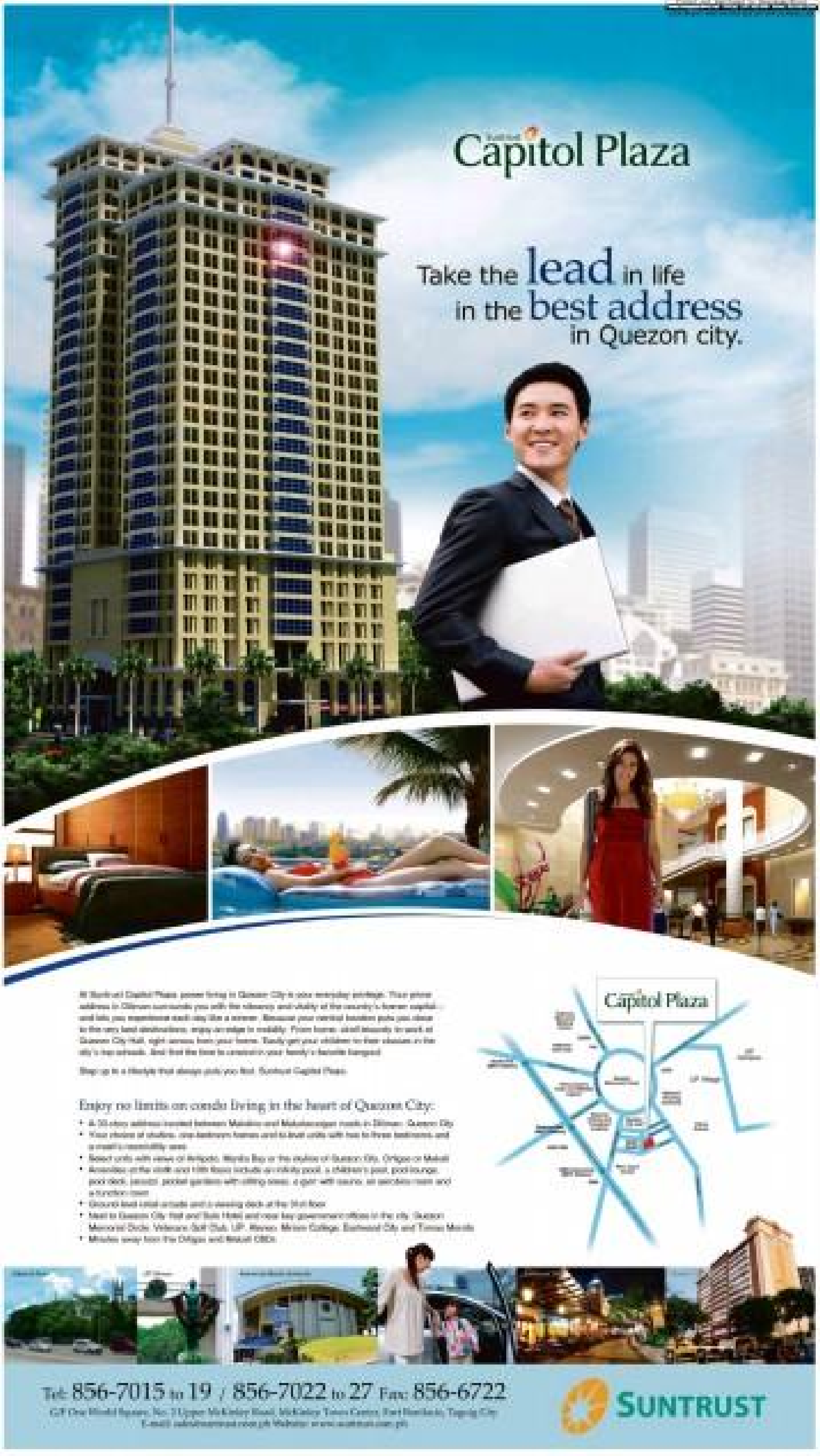


Globe unveils country's first-ever augmented reality print campaign



SM renews tie up with DTI




Capitol Plaza
Take the lead in life
in the best address
in Quezon city.
Capitol Plaza
Enjoy no limits on condo living in the heart of Quezon City:
Tel: 856-7015 to 19 / 856-7022 to 27 Fax: 856-6722
SUNTRUST







A *rare gem* set to shine in Quezon City

By Charles E. Buban

IN its natural state, a diamond appears as a dull, unassuming gem, lacking the sparkle and glitter that we have come to associate it with.

The same could be said about a towering structure jutting up just behind the Quezon City Hall. For years, passersby must have wondered what will happen to this unfinished edifice.

But we will no longer have to guess. Suntrust Properties Inc. recently announced that like a skilled craftsman, the company will turn the structure into a gleaming landmark that its future residents will feel proud of.

"It will definitely be imposing as well as spectacular. At 33-stories high, Suntrust Capitol Plaza will be dominating the skyline of Quezon City," described Suntrust Properties president, Atty. Harrison Paltongan.

Superbly appointed

Located in a 2,800.5 sq-m property along Mayaman Street (back of Quezon City Hall) and just beside the iconic Sulo Hotel) in Diliman, Suntrust Capitol Plaza will be superbly appointed with unrivalled amenities.

"This high-rise residential condominium was envisioned to be a 'palazzo' that is, a grand palace designed like an upscale condo despite the fact that units here will be affordably priced. We want to provide that feeling of grand proportions, be impressed from the moment one steps into the opulent lobby," described Atty. Paltongan.

Instead of entering a small residential condo, residents will feel they just stepped inside a posh hotel.

"And they will feel that way as we will build a central grand lobby with a reception and lounge area built amidst high ceilings and imposing architecture apart from the residential lobby that also features same amenities. There will be retail shops, food outlets with kitchen, eight levels of parking as well as four high-speed, interior finished passenger elevators—two to service the two basement parking floors as well as the commercial spaces at the ground floor, offices, clinics and shops at the second floor, and the parking levels at the basement and 3rd to 8th floors. The other two elevators will exclusively service the residential floors from the 9th to 33rd floor," enumerated Atty. Paltongan.

The amenities area located at the 9th and 10th floors will have an infinity pool, children's pool, jacuzzi, a pool deck with sitting area, parent sunbathing lounge, viewing deck, function rooms, gymnasium, rooms for aerobics, massage, changing rooms for men and women (with shower for each).

Another notable feature will be the viewing deck at the 33rd floor where residents will be able to enjoy 360-degree views of the cityscapes of Ortigas, Makati, Mandaluyong and Caloocan, including the scenic mountains of Rizal province.

Many sides

One of the most notable features of Suntrust Capitol Plaza's building design is the fact that it has many sides—[illegible] "By having more than the typical four sides that most condo units offer, we could assure our homebuyers that they will be enjoying more and expansive views from their windows," assured Atty. Paltongan.

Atty. Paltongan also added that by having numerous sides, prospective buyers have the additional luxury of choosing a unit that has their preferred view depending on which direction it faces: Quezon City and its elliptical circle to the north; Pasig, Makati, Eastwood, Cubao and Mandaluyong skyline to the south; the mountains of Rizal province to the east; and the Ninoy Aquino Park and Wildlife Nature Center to the west.

"More sides also mean more windows that will allow good air ventilation for all the units. Abundant sunlight that will provide good illumination for all units is also assured. So our residents will not only be pampered with grand views but will also save on electric charges for their lighting and air-con," he said.

Low Density

Atty. Paltongan added that Suntrust Capitol Plaza tower will have just 600 units, compared to the average 2,000 units that other projects with the same land area would usually offer. Each of the 33 floors is assured of at least 30 percent open space.

"We're not after the number of units that we could offer. Rather, we want to ensure that each floor doesn't feel crowded and that each unit is more spacious than what is normally offered in the market. We also provided top notch amenities that are not usually offered in this price range. In a way we are setting the bar of what an affordable residential condo could offer," he said.

With units that could be had for just P3 million (studio), Atty. Paltongan believes they have a residential condo that would be very attractive to all market segments. After all, Suntrust Capitol Plaza has units designed to address the varying paying capacity of interested homebuyers.

Allure

"No other development in this price range offers so much amenities and facilities. And being located at the heart of Quezon City, we will be attracting professionals working in the various BPOs in the area, those working in nearby government institutions especially the adjoining City Hall and health institution landmarks, those employed by private establishments, and even families of overseas Filipino workers," said Atty. Paltongan.

He added that Suntrust Capitol Plaza's proximity to almost 20 national government offices including the National Statistic Office, Social Security System, Land Transportation Office, National Irrigation Administration and of course, the Quezon City Hall makes transactions to any of these offices more convenient.

One should also feel assured health-wise, considering that the development is just a few meters away from most of the country's leading medical institutions like the Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney Institute, and the National Children's Hospital, to name a few.

Commercial establishments like the Trinoma, SM North Edsa, and Eton Centris, etc. are just a ride away for those future residents wanting to enjoy shopping, eating out or simply strolling at the various entertainment centers.

Those who are still studying would find Suntrust Capitol Plaza very near some of the country's best schools—University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and the Philippine Science High School.

Indeed, considering its location in Quezon City, Atty. Paltongan is confident that even those working in other CBDs of Metro Manila will be attracted to Suntrust Capitol Plaza adding that both East Avenue and Kalayaan Avenue are two of the main thoroughfares that eventually connect to mass railway transit as well as Edsa.

Very few projects could boast of what Suntrust Capitol Plaza offers. Being developed by Suntrust Properties ensures that this will be one of the market's best.

"This may be Suntrust Properties' first venture in Quezon City, but since 1997, the company has created numerous self-sustaining residential communities. Indeed, we have the experience and expertise," said Atty. Paltongan.

These projects include the 68-hectare township of Governor's Hills and the 40-hectare community of The Gener Heights, both located in General Trias, Cavite. Suntrust Properties has also pioneered themed residential communities that include the 58-hectare Sunrise Hills, Cybergreens and Cyberville in Dasmariñas, Cavite; the 85-hectare Sta. Rosa Heights, Sta. Rosa Hills and The Meridian in the Silang (Cavite)-Sta. Rosa (Laguna) area, and the 22-hectare Suntrust Verona in Calamba, Laguna. The Verona, a 63-hectare themed development (also in the Silang-Sta. Rosa area) will be launched soon.

Suntrust Properties' other condominium developments include Suntrust Parkview in Ermita, Manila; Suntrust Adriatico Gardens in Malate, Manila; Suntrust Treetop Villas in Coronado Street, Mandaluyong; UN Gardens in UN Ave., Manila, and Suntrust Aurora Gardens in Aurora Blvd., Quezon City.

Suntrust Properties, Inc. is a subsidiary of real estate property giant Megaworld Corporation.

"While Megaworld has a successful track record of developing self-contained communities under its pioneering live-work-play-learn concept, Suntrust is aspiring to carve a name for itself as a major provider for middle-income Filipino families. With Suntrust Capitol Plaza, our market will soon have a rare opportunity to acquire a uniquely crafted living space in Quezon City," Paltongan assured.

For further inquiries or details, interested parties may call 988-7910 to 19 or visit SPI's website at www.suntrust.com.ph





MERALCO REACHES OUT TO SMEs

Economic boost from Meralco SME Partners





"We formed a special team dedicated to SMEs to help sustain their entrepreneurial momentum."

Alfredo S. Panlilio





Entrepreneurs in Metro Manila and surrounding areas face a bright, energized future with the launch of the "Meralco SME Partners," a team brought together to support and boost small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

[illegible]

"DI NA KAILANGAN NG GAYON NG 'CONTACT' SA MERALCO PARA MAPABILIS ANG PROCESSING NG APPLICATIONS. WITH OUR CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS HELPING US, SME CUSTOMERS CAN GET ELECTRICITY FOR THEIR BUSINESSES FASTER."

[illegible]





For more information on Meralco SME Partners, please call (632) 1622-3763 or email sme@meralco.com.ph

MERALCO SME PARTNERS

MOTORING

A level playing field in the auto industry

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



'We have to shift from combustion engines to zero emission'

An interview with Nissan COO Toshiyuki Shiga





MINI signs up Tabuena as endorser



Birthday Wishes

SKID MARKS

Botchi Santos



Still Safe of the Art

Volvo's well-engineered XC90 offers more value



The XC90 sold 86,000 units in 2005, making it Sweden's most valuable export product.





A level playing field in the auto industry

Mirage staging a comeback









Few more months

Emerging markets

38 kpl

Mercedes-Benz unveils the C63 AMG Coupe



LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining



Xandra Padilla: Plan your holiday table as you would your wardrobe

Pay attention to color, patterns, layers and shapes



ALEXANDRA Ramos-Padilla, general manager of Crossings, with design consultant [illegible]

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

YOU CAN decorate your table with flair without draining your wallet.

Xandra Ramos-Padilla, general manager of Crossings Department Store, suggests you plan the Christmas table as you would your wardrobe. The rules are the same: establishing a basic color theme; being adventurous with patterns; layering (visually overlapping one on other); and playing with shapes.

"Consumers want style, but at costs. All you need are basic pieces, and add as you move on," she says.

Ramos-Padilla herself loves [illegible] gatherings with her book club

XANDRA [illegible]



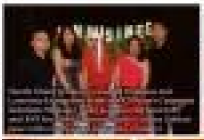


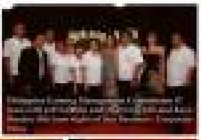
Sun Business Parties Hollywood Style

It was a night fitted for the stars – and for Sun Business nobody deserved it better than their loyal clients and partners. Last December 6, Sun Business rolled out the red carpet at Octagon, Silver City Mall, Frontera Verde, Pasig to treat their dedicated clients to a night of cocktails, sumptuous food, flowing drinks and live band as they partied the night away in a Hollywood themed party entitled "The Walk of Fame."

In appreciation of the superb business partnership Sun Business have with their clients, a total VIP experience was extended to simply let them know that they will always be superstars for Sun Business! Those in attendance included executives from BDO, [illegible], Manulife, Metrobank, Nestle, [illegible] and St. Luke's Medical Center.

In his appreciation toast, Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc. Chief Operating Officer Charles A. Lim thanked the clients for supporting Sun Business through the years. Furthermore, he announced that as proud members of the PLDT family, clients can expect better services and reliable infrastructure from Digitel and Sun Cellular. Digitel officers who joined in on the night's festivities were led by Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc.'s new President and CEO Mr. Orlando Vea, together with VP for Corporate Sales [illegible], VP for Sun Business Marketing [illegible] and AVP for Corporate Sales – GSM [illegible]. Truly, Sun Business' clients can expect more star treatments and a stronger, brighter, and more reliable Digitel and Sun Cellular on 2012.

























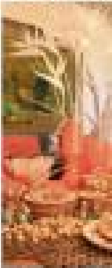












Xandra Padilla: Plan your holiday table . . .





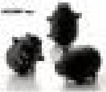






Basic yet stylish

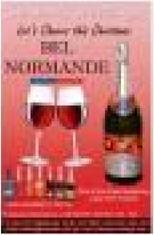











BEL
NORMANDE


You'll keep
wanting more!
MINI


CLEARANCE SALE
70% off
OAKLEY
EXTREME COLLECTIONS
DEC. 15,16 & 17
9:30am-5:30pm
DEC. 15 - 21



PLASTIC balls, red duct tape scissors, white plastic bag



CHRISTMAS decor



RED duct tape, white plastic bags



LITTLE Tikes house from scratch



TWISTED white plastic bags, extension cord, glue gun



Little tykes house

Building a gingerbread house

Transform a playhouse into a big Christmas decoration



DO-IT-YOURSELF

OUR FRIEND, an avid DIY enthusiast, Maja Gamboa, shares a fun-filled activity perfect for the holiday season. She decided to temporarily convert her kids' Little Tikes playhouse into life-sized gingerbread house.

Here's how you can do it. To achieve the "cookie" look, wrap the surface of the house with craft paper. To create a likeness of snow, twist white trash bags and use a glue gun to stick them on the craft paper, outlining the general details of the house, like the windows and doors.

Cut out and stick red duct tape to simulate roof shingles. Create fun patterns and textures by decorating the remaining blank surface of the gingerbread house with colored plastic balls, candy and cookie ornaments.

The best part of this project is, not only is it unique, but it will create a more memorable holiday season for your family and friends!



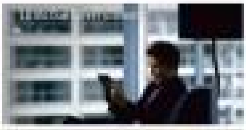
MAJA and Emilio Gamboa



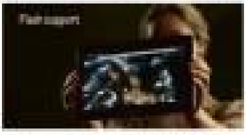
GINGERBREAD house

ALREADY GOT THE TAB?

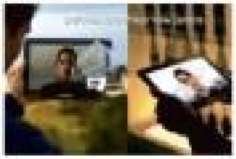
Samsung expands its Android territory with the addition of sexier and more powerful Galaxy Tabs







The sexy Tab



So what are you waiting for? Be a part of the Tab Generation now!




MOET Hennessy area director Steven Bellot, and brand development manager Randy Leon


RYAN Singh, Jennifer Qiao, Malin Flansen, Joe Quiogue


MAARTI Shergill, director for ... Richard Alarcon


MOET Hennessy top-level representative Olga Azarcon, area director Steven Bellot, eye-catching Bea Alguevalo


CHICO Garcia, Pinky Magsaysay, Bea Tanaco

Great mix of drinks, entertainment and partying

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen

[illegible]

Grand Marian procession

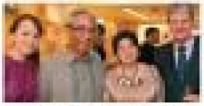
[illegible]

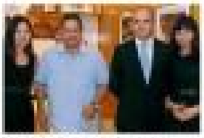
LV CEO comes to town

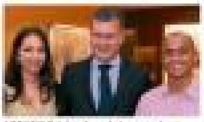
[illegible]


PILAR Tocson, Wesley Villarica, Rachel Tan Carreon


TIM Yap, Carla and Pia Miguel


LV PHILS.' country manager Marie de Vera Aguirre, SOS Children's Villages director ... Yves Carcelle

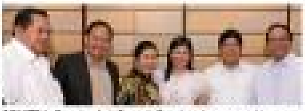

LV REGIONAL ... Philippines ...

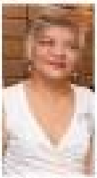

LIFESTYLE Asia's ... president for Asia-Pacific ... ABS-CBN publishing head ... Lopez


LOUIS Vuitton chair and CEO Yves Carcelle, LV Phils. country manager Marie de Vera-Aguirre


CHIEN Cuaro, Borja Santos


MOET Hennessy "mixologist" Julienne Delhomme


CONSTE ... Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion ...


ETHEL Tindel

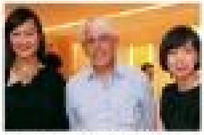

IMELDA Cojuangco, board director Marietta Santos


GLAMOROUS philanthropist and art connoisseur Imelda Ongsiako Cojuangco ... by the image of Inmaculada Concepcion


2011 hermanas mayores Lory Yala, Baby Jorolan, Cor Yala Elizalde

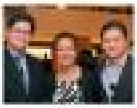

TATLER's Chit Lijauco, Becky Garcia


YOYO Master Ernest Kahn and his guests

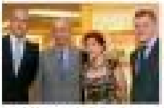

MYRNA Sison, Metro Society's Raul Manzano, Samsonite's Lisa Gokongwei

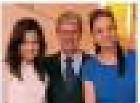

KAREN Manzano, Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion Foundation president ... FCCP president ...


OLGA Azarcon, Chris Lopez, Michaella Torres


KEVIN ... Louis Vuitton's ... Daniel Sue ...


AYALA Land's Rowena Tomeldan, Myrna Fernandez, Bernard Dy, AC Ocampo


EMBASSY of France's Economic Counselor Edouard Fourn, ... Jean Baptiste Delhomme


DANNIE ... Yves Carcelle, Ingrid Chua-Go

It's a child's Christmas at Rustan's





CHILDREN are in the mood for Christmas with Baby Club.



How to build your children's memories of Christmas

Snow shower in Eastwood, COD animated display —the magic is as I remember it from childhood

Audrey Tan-Zubiri



MAMA DIARIES

Christmas village

Mechanized mannequins

Bashing some myths on ADHD

'Best before date' is just a guide

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

[illegible]



MEGAWORLD MAGAZINE

WHAT'S UP

Legarda book on Rizal to be launched

DPC-PLDT art contest

PSBank time deposit

ENTERTAINMENT





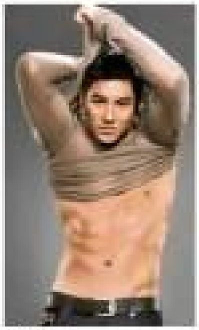


Network's attack dogs pursue star who bailed

[illegible]

Twisting Mo

[illegible]





SM CINEMA

SHANG

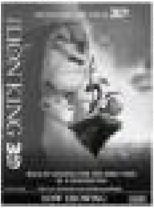
POWER PLANT

CINEMAS

Indies' world view is Pinoy



view





MOVIE TIME

MOVIE SPECIAL



MALL EVENTS

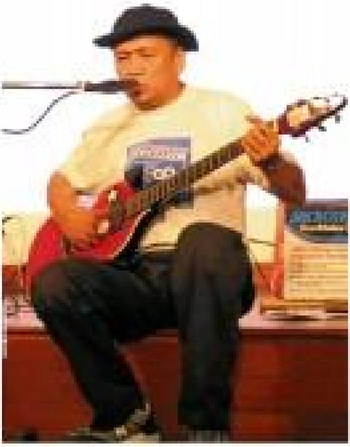
MALL SPECIAL



Indies' world view is Pinoy view

Some kind of guru

By Marinel R. Cruz





Deocampo: 'Growing up as a homosexual, I took a stand, giving my films a gay perspective that shaped the poetics and politics of my films, vis-à-vis a macho culture'

Roxlee's 12 commandments for independent filmmakers

Network's attack dogs…

Top of the Talk Shows







ENTERTAINMENT



ANGELICA Panganiban

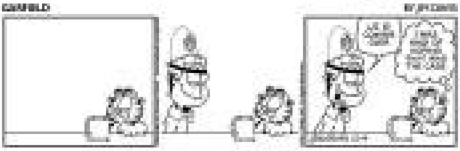
Expensive bags no sign of class



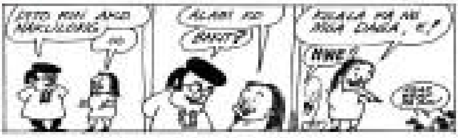
DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

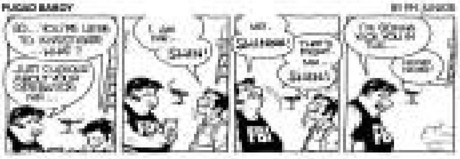
GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN — BY JOSE ABREJERA



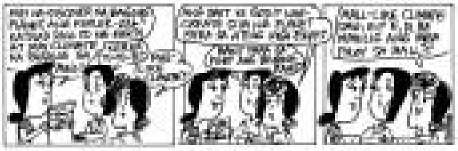
PUGAD BABOY — BY PM JUNIOR



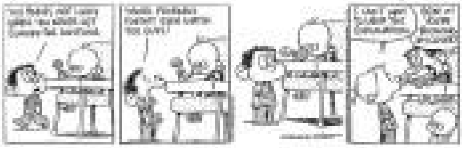
DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



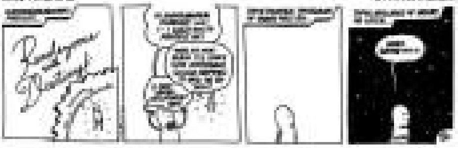
LOVELINES — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



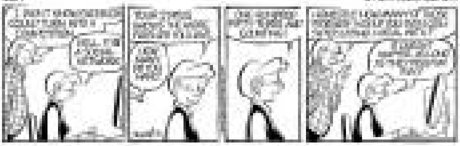
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



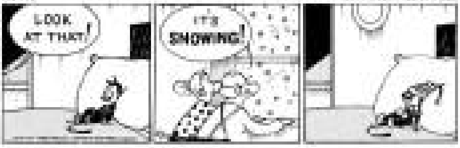
KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA



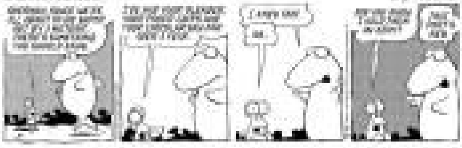
ZEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



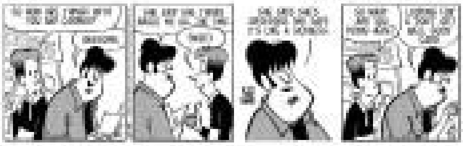
MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



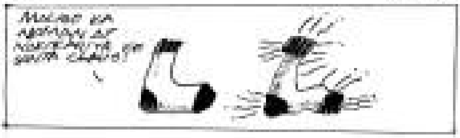
SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER



TULDOK — BY MARIA COLL



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

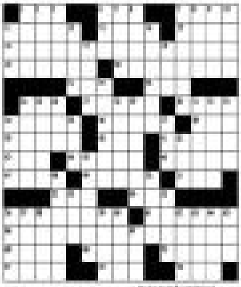
	6	8	3	7	5	9	1	
	9						4	
						7		
					7			
		3	8	4	2	1		
			5					
		4						
	3						6	
	7	9	4	6	1	5	8	

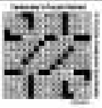
Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN





Expensive...

Time check

Be right back

















Reality check for Christmas series' young viewers

VIEWFINDER





> The kids are given enough touching things to do to move viewers—but not too much, so they don't end up as a dangerous saccharine surfeit

OPENING THIS WEEK

'Di Natatapos ang Gabi (The Night Infinite)

The Lion King 3D



THE LION King 3D

Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol



TOM CRUISE and Jeremy Renner in "Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol"


Rustan's
SEASON OF
LIGHTS
Handpick the most
desirable treasures from Rustan's
such as Cento diamond jewelry from ROBERTO COIN,
imaginatively crafted MARCO BICEGO creations,
playfully glamorous collections from TAMARA COMOLLI,
unique YVEL jewelry, and the Locks Collection
from the world-renowned TIFFANY & CO.
TAMARA COMOLLI
TIFFANY & CO.
ROBERTO COIN
MARCO BICEGO
Pluck
pitch-perfect
accents
No need to wait to
give a gift that lasts
forever.
Enjoy 0% interest for 24
months on Fine Jewelry at
Rustan's when you use your
Citibank credit card.
Promo period from
October 15, 2011 to
December 31, 2011
Rustan's
citibank
VISA
10%
rebate*
Simply charge your utilities, dining, travel, and other
household purchases to your Rustan's Citibank Card
and receive 10% Rebate on your purchases at
Rustan's, Stores Specialists Inc., and Shopwise.
Apply now! Text CITIRUSTANS to 2600.


Experience
Rustan's
SEASON of
LIGHTS
Select the most
choice gifts from Rustan's
such as must-have MICHAEL KORS heels,
playfully sophisticated KATE SPADE shoes,
and timelessly stylish BALLY flats.
SALVATORE FERRAGAMO
Step into the spotlight
MICHAEL KORS
MICHAEL KORS
MICHAEL KORS
Black Pumps
KATE SPADE
BALLY
KATE SPADE
KATE SPADE
BALLY
CHARRIOL
GENEVE
The New Celtic Collection
NOW OPEN
www.charriol.com